*English Art Portfolio – Noah Thompson*

*†~The Cask of Amontillado~†*



Card art from **Magic** of a Siren

The Siren: Desire demon of the deeps, caller of the depths, and the very sound of Death. These are the ones that lure men to their imminent doom with promises of love. In The Cask of Amontillado, the siren takes a different form. The form of a wealthy man in search of revenge, rather than a demon in search of food. Just as the siren drags its prey into the darkness, Montresors dragged Fortunato to his own death, and while the Siren has no concept of revenge, it attacks with a similar malice. With similar intents, both creatures lure prey with their song, the siren with its own song and Montresors with his tales of the Cask. In the end, both forms of prey die a slow and painful death.

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/BgL5xXH5zEM>

Master of The Heavenly Yard (mothy):

~*Moonlit Bear~*

*In this tale of sound and voice, a woman of instability is filled with the need for what she presumes to be her treasure. Through the forest she walks, willing to do anything for it, and when she finds it she is met with great and mighty opposition. She runs endlessly, and as she turns around her true fate is sealed. This woman is doomed to a fate of death for the crimes she has committed, and within the story The Cask of Amontillado, the same outcome has occurred with different origin. Fortunato, after hearing tell of a certain cask of Amontillado, a great treasure, drunkenly agrees to follow his soon-to-be killer into the depths of unknown territory. As they walk, they talk endlessly of the treasure waiting at the end. Just as the woman is after the apples, Fortunato is after Amontillado, and as the woman meets her fate, so does he. Fortunato was willing to do anything for the treasure, much as the woman was as well. As both close in on their treasure, they both realize the mistakes they have made and the fate they are going to be met with. All that is left to do is stay and watch as their lives slowly end.*

*Ω The Lady, or The Tiger Ω*



Artist: Anne Strokes

Within this picture is many a tale told. “The Lady, or The Tiger” shares much with this work of art. Behind the fair maiden is the icy grip if Death that comes with every trial. Death can be called the Adjudicator of the Dead, which is similar to the trials the King holds within his amphitheater of life and death. Behind one of the two unmarked doors are Heaven and Hell, and Death represents the hell that awaits behind door number two. The slavering tiger waiting for its next kill can also be equated quite succinctly with Death, as it holds the scythe that will cut any man unfortunate enough to cross it. The maiden within Death’s clasp represents the heaven found behind door number one. She is beautiful and fair, the paragon of purity hand-selected from the entirety of the populace. It is within her time holds its grainy sand, as pliant and capricious as life. The bats surrounding them represent the hungry audience, awaiting either marriage or slaughter with equal hunger. This work of art has much to say about this story, and within its depths a tale is told like no other.

[*http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gv4zGQ5feaY*](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gv4zGQ5feaY)

*Linkin Park: Powerless*

*If one were to decide the ending of “The Lady, or the Tiger,” then it would have to be that the princess unleashed the tiger upon the man for her own selfish desires. The song “Powerless” greatly echoes what the man must have felt in his final moments. As the song plays the lyrics fly forth, and a song of heartbreak ensues. The princess truly did “wake the devil she left behind,” as in her own zeal she decided to kill her precious lover. The man was very much “Powerless” under the judgment of not only the king, but his daughter, as one wished him death and so did the other. As the final bell rung, the man’s final moments were “by her side” as he was felled by the ferocious tiger. Both tales truly spoke tragedy over lost love, and that is why they are so deeply intertwined.*

*†-The Most Dangerous Game-†*

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*This Hawk soaring through the skies in many colored plume symbolizes the hunt itself, the vibrant colors epitomizing the adaptation one needs in order to carry out his hunt. The hawk itself is a bird of prey, silently and swiftly seeking its prey and swooping down for the kill. Zaroff can be symbolized using this picture because he is a man of many colors, sporting experience in hunting all sorts of animals. The intricate designs symbolize Zaroff’s intricate mind, constantly changing and growing stronger, eluding Rainsford’s mind at every opportunity. The Zaroff’s fierce talons had many a chance to capture and kill Rainsford, adding another to the endless list of murders, and into the night he soars again if he is successful in his mission.*

*http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQih8wmIn\_M&list=LLgczMMJI5qDE9h2H1uNoKJQ*

**Vocaloid Eight - Bad∞End∞Night**

In this anti-thesis of a fairy tale, a young woman is lost in a forest in search of shelter, with a letter in hand. She meets a mansion through her travels, and within it lies an almost family-like group of people. The same occurs for Rainsford in The Most Dangerous Game, appearing on a lone mansion in the forest. As merriment is made, both mansions experience a party filled with drinks and a grand feast. However, behind both estates lie dark secrets, one housing coffins in its basement, the other housing an owner that makes it his hobby to kill others. In Bad End Night, Miku manages to kill her captors and escape back into the night without a regret, turning into a killer in the process. Rainsford draws the same line in his morality once he has found out the mansion’s deadly secret, and kills General Zarroff in order to break free.

*“The Lottery”*

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*This work of art is in allusion to Pandora’s Box, a vessel that holds all that is evil in the world. This box, when opened will unleash hatred upon the entire world, and in a sense, mirrors The Lottery. As each man, woman, and child lines up to open the black box and withdraw a slip of paper, they are taking the chance that they will unleash the hatred contained within the box upon themselves. This self-destructive effect also occurred when, in myth, Pandora’s Box was opened, and the world became a place for the worst. As the black dot, which could represent hatred in itself, is selected, the box’s remaining contents become meaningless.*

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P\_CuTlYd2ng*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_CuTlYd2ng)

*Thrice - Under a Killing Moon*

*The lyrics of this motif of death sing truly for the fallacy that is The Lottery. The Lottery itself could be equated with the Salem Witch Trials due to the almost random adjudication of innocents. If you wish to join the game (village) you must partake in the winnings – death. If you hold your tongue, you will most likely be saved. Ms. Hutchinson did not “hold her tongue”, speaking out against the Game, and therefore she was forced to be burned at the stake, or in the case of The Lottery, Stoned to death. Everyone had an equal chance, but some were more equal than others. Most likely, the concept of The Lottery has some control of whom receives the black dot, and with “black gloves” Mr. Summers dealt out the lottery’s painful and deathly reward.*

*≈~Where are you going, Where have you been?~≈*

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*The Golden Apple*

*This golden apple represents the apple Adam and Eve chose to eat, the same one that ultimately took their fates. In Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been, Connie is given a choice as well, at first presented with a most tantalizing option for her life, and yet slowly realizes that the golden apple she is about to pick is actually rotten to the core. Arnold Friend increases the temptation, even though a deep enough slash has been cut into the apple to show its ugly center, and eventually Connie is forced to succumb, eating the apple and stepping into the golden car. This is what is believed to have happened, since the story does end with a sense of openness. Another parallel to be drawn is the alluring golden car Arnold and Ellie appear in, its markings raising a couple of laughs to Connie and opening her up more to the duo. As the car turns from golden to rust in her eyes, Connie is horrified and her captors take advantage of everything they can.*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGNiXGX2nLU>

You Spin Me Right Round

– Flo Rida

This song, in all of its passion, perfectly illustrates the subtle malevolence Arnold exudes through its lyrics, as every word could be sung by Arnold Friend himself. As Arnold begins his dangerous game, he starts by stating quite clearly Connie’s name, similarly introduced in You Spin Me Right Round. Arnold offers a special aspect of love that no other could accomplish, again sung in the very lyrics. Through the chorus, Flo Rida’s lyrics tantalize the target, also in an archaic manner since both the song and the story share a similar time base. Arnold’s target is Connie, no other, and he truly “wants her love”, yet most likely for more sinister purposes. Arnold truly “wants some”, and throughout the tale is constantly trying to lure Connie out into the open so that he can wrap his arms around her. The music video also binds the chorus firmly in golden ribbons, in this context symbolizing the stage Arnold has set in his similarly golden automobile. Both the song and the story have much in common, and it can be said that You Spin Me Right Round is a summary of the Arnold’s point of view.

~Orientation~

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The Grim Reaper (Office Edition)

Even Death walks the office introduced in Orientation, as this accursed workspace seems to be prowled by the evil paragon of darkness himself. Slowly learning the somewhat gruesome stories of Orientation’s office leaves the reader in a sense of malevolence, and a higher ability to see what lies behind each and every door. As death is told to the main character, with a wife’s bursting brain, a serial killer with precise targets, and a silent but deadly Unit Officer, Death walks, checking every cubicle for a chance. Anika Bloom seems to be able to see the cold scythe that lurks through the office every day, as when asked she will tell one’s time of death and method of dying, as well as go into fits of fear with blood dripping from her scarlet palm. Intricate love affairs and dark back stories are seemingly spun from Death himself, as the ill-fated office’s cogwheels of bone and drywall continue to turn, Death seems to be having a good time.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdfQfXro2eI>

Gakupo – Joker

In this somewhat dictatorial office of Orientation, the speaker could be seen as the owner of this establishment, and the lyrics of Joker gently echo the feeling behind the speaker’s words. The speaker is aware that it is “showtime,” showing the new employee the ins and outs of the workspace, but as he speaks the words become more grim. “Do you consent to the rule book?” sums up the rules placed down by the speaker, while “Compassion is a useless affection” is shown to be highly enforced in the office. The speaker has already laid down his cards, and a conspicuously malevolent line is said as “Two girls disappeared,” namely the two receptionists before the current one. The speaker is truly “introducing” the employee “to the world,” and is already having critical expectations, showing that darkness dissolves in a “sea of trees,” which could metaphorically be equated to the paper-based methods of work within this office. A penalty is truly inevitable as the stern rules continue to slowly wrap the new employee like a spider’s silk, and as the full truth is revealed the speaker seems more of a Joker than an average man, manipulating the office to his will.